

Drummers, fireworks on tap for Seaside Fourth

By R.J. MARX
EO MEDIA GROUP

SEASIDE — The drums are beating for the Fourth of July, and the brass will sound.

Four world-class bands will provide rhythmic support for hundreds of marchers and thousands of visitors this Independence Day.

Presented by the Seaside Chamber of Commerce, pyrotechnics specialist Larry Kriegshauser will not only light up the skies, but serves as volunteer coordinator for four drum and bugle corps — 550 performers in all.

The Oregon Crusaders will be joined by the Battalion from Salt Lake City, Utah; the Santa Clara

Vanguard, number four in the world, from Santa Clara, California; and the Spokane Thunder from Spokane, Washington. The parade begins at 11 a.m., at which time bands will join marchers; at 2 p.m., a free show will feature all four drum corps at Broadway Field.

Kriegshauser was introduced to drum corps in 1981, when his son marched. “We’ve had some of the top corps,” he said. “These young people, 15 to 21, they will outperform any military or marching band.”

Kriegshauser will be operating with a budget of \$56,000 for transportation and lodging for musicians, who perform without fee.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Santa Clara Vanguard is one of four bands to perform.

The Seaside Chamber coordinates meetings with city staff, public works and volunteers, Event Coordinator Cyndi Mudge said. “Our role is to make sure all the pieces are talking and working together.”

The parade route has been shortened due to Holladay Drive roadwork. Parade participants will line up on Necanicum Drive from First Avenue to 12th Avenue, the opposite direction from years past.

The parade will turn east from Necanicum across the First Avenue Bridge and then south to Holladay, west on Broadway, north on Columbia, and then east on First Avenue, finishing at Necanicum.

From 1 to 3 p.m. is the Old-Fashioned Social at the Seaside Historical Museum. At 3 p.m. on the Prom, the Northwest Skyliners present a stunt-kite display.

Fireworks begin at 10 p.m. at the Turnaround. The show, produced by Western Display Fireworks, is called “Fire in the Sky,” and will feature more than 9,500 pyrotechnic shots, all timed to music. “If you can’t hear the music, you’re not hearing the show,” Kriegshauser said.

Fireworks are launched by computer, set to synchronize with Elvis Presley, John Philip Sousa and Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture. The sky will light up rain or shine.

Kriegshauser (and others) are hoping they do not see a repeat of the 2015 extravaganza, at which a Mylar balloon knocked out power to the city for hours. He described it as “very scary” — 40,000 people with no lights, pits on the beach and darkness falling.

On July 5, from 8 to 11 a.m., is the Treasure the Beach Cleanup. Locations are The Turnaround, Avenue U and the Prom, and 12th and Prom. Volunteers at the three locations will provide trash bags.

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